

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

SHERRY.

- B. SUPERIOR PALE DRY.
Dinner Wine, Green Seal
Capsule \$12.00
- C. MANZANILLA, PALE
NATURAL SHERRY,
White Capsule 13.50
- CC. SUPERIOR OLD PALE
DRY, NATURAL
SHERRY, Red Seal
Capsule 16.00
- D. VERY SUPERIOR OLD
PALE DRY, Choice Old
Wine, White Seal Capsule 18.00
- E. EXTRASUPERIOR OLD
PALE DRY, Very Finest
Quality (old bottled),
Black Seal Capsule 27.00

B, C, & CC are excellent Dinner Wines.
D and E are After-Dinner Wines of a very
Superior Vintage. ALL ARE GUARAN-
TEED PURE XERES WINES.

Sample bottles and smaller quantities
will be supplied at proportionate wholesale
rates.

We guarantee our Wines and Spirits to
be genuine only when bought direct from
us in the Colony or from our authorised
Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MARRIAGES.

On the 4th January, 1904, at H.B.M. Consulate,
Ningpo, before R. H. Mortimore, and afterwards
by the Rev. J. W. Hayward, Arthur John
Puryear, to ELIZABETH ANN OSKERSBERG, both
of Ningpo.

On the 4th January, 1904, at All Saints Church,
Tientsin, by the Rev. H. J. Brown, M.A., and
afterwards at H.B.M. Consulate-General, by J.
C. Hopkins, Consulate-General, Gordon O'Neill,
L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and Florence, youngest
daughter of the late MAGNUS LINKLATER, of
Swatow.

DEATHS.

On the 13th January, 1904, at 84, Raffles
Road, Shanghai, FRANCIS ROBERT NOAKES,
youngest son of the late FREDERICK CLIFTON
(S.W.W. Co.), aged 14 months.

On the 14th January, 1904, at the General
Hospital, Shanghai, Captain R. P. ANDERSON,
late manager of Arnhold, Karberg & Co's Oil
Wharf, Pootung.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VUE ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 20th JANUARY, 1904

In its issue of the 15th instant our
Shanghai contemporary, the *North-China
Daily News*, says:—"A private note received
yesterday from a well-informed source in
Japan says that the chartering of trans-
ports is going on openly. Troops will
not be despatched to Korea until after a
naval engagement. The Kokura and
Sendai Divisions will be the first to take
the field. Foreign newspaper correspon-
dents are receiving orders by wire to cable
freely irrespective of cost." It is to be
presumed, however, that the correspondents
find little to cable about, or else that the
censorship is very strict indeed; for no news
of a trustworthy nature reaches us even via
Europe. With regard to the despatch of
troops to Korea, in spite of the authority
quoted by the *Daily News*, we learn from a
traveller only just arrived in the Colony
from the Korean coast that Japan un-
doubtedly has been landing small bodies
of men in Korea, quietly but steadily.
He even went so far as to maintain
that Japan has quite 25,000 men in
Korea, prepared for the outbreak of war.
Rumours to this effect were of course pre-
valent before, but the present story is much
more circumstantial. As to the good faith
of our informant we have no hesitation, and
we therefore give his statement as worthy of
consideration. We must, however, confess
to being puzzled to explain how Japan's
action can have failed to be revealed through
Chinese reports. A thorough censorship
can suppress telegrams from Japan, but not
via China.

A report laid on the Legislative Council
table yesterday which furnishes very melan-
choly reading-matter is that of the com-
mittee appointed to enquire into the causes
of Chinese infantile mortality in the Colony.
That committee was composed of Doctors
J. M. ATKINSON, Ho Kai, G. P. JORDAN,
W. W. PEARSE, G. M. HARSTON, and W.
HUNTER. Many meetings were held and the
French and Italian Convents were inspected,
as being the places where most of the
infantile deaths under one month occurred.
As was the case in 1886, when on the raising
of the question in the Council by Mr. A. P.
MacEwen, Mr. HUGH MACCULLUM exam-
ined the causes of infantile mortality
here, the committee agrees that it is not to
intrinsic defects in the two Convents that
the large death-rate is due, but to the
number of moribund children
dumped at the Convent doors. The
figures on which the committee had to
work included the Acting M.O.H.'s return
from July, 1902, to June, 1903, which show-
ed a total of 1,073 infantile deaths under
one year in the Colony, 495 or over 46 per
cent. being due to *tetanus*, *trismus*, and con-
vulsions; 370 of those latter were at the
French Convent, which draws from a lower
class of Chinese population than the Italian
Convent. Altogether the French Convent
admitted 1,392 infants, of whom 1,271 died,
277 from *tetanus* and *trismus*; the Italian
Convent admitted 341 infants, of whom 168
died, 25 from *tetanus* and *trismus*. It was
found that the number of admissions and
deaths began to rise in April, and reached its
maximum in August, then declining to its
minimum between January and March.
The causes of the mortality are stated by
the report of the Committee to be:—

(1) *Trismus*, the commonest cause of deaths
under two weeks of age in the Convents.
The Chinese call this *so han*, or lock-jaw,
and consider it a hopeless disease. Dr.
HUNTER, however, could not isolate the
tetanus bacillus in his post-mortem examina-
tions. (2) *Marasmus*, which Dr. HUNTER
found to be responsible for over 33 per cent.
in some 600 post-mortems on children under
two years old. Mal-nutrition and want of
cleanliness, as well as hereditary con-
ditions, are to blame. (3) Chest-affections,
(4) Diarrhoea, (5) Convulsions, at
teething time and from worms. The
Chinese use the term *kap king* to describe
his class of convulsive disease. The report
points out that it is an important fact that
a number, possibly a third to half of the
children dying within one month, have not
had their births registered. Chinese children
not being entered in the "family tree"
until they are one month old. The high
death-rate is more apparent than real, says
the Committee. The M.O.H. in his 1902
report gives the infantile death-rate at 796
per 1,000, after allowing for all deaths under
one month as unregistered; but owing to
the very large number of births unregistered,
his figures must be considered very much
over the mark. And further, if our figures
are compared with the infantile death-rate
in Calcutta—748.6 per 1,000—they are rela-
tively not so bad as apparent at first sight.
As to preventive measures, the Committee
say that the first and greatest involves the
better education of the Chinese, especially
the lower classes, in sanitary matters. The
maternity hospital is a step in the right
direction, but a free maternity charity,
whereby poor people could be attended in
their own houses, is wanted. A bonus of
\$2 to mother, midwife, or other person
present registering a birth within one
month is recommended. The Convents
should be required to register every admis-
sion at the Registrar-General's Office. And
the foster mothers with whom children from
the Convents are housed should also be
registered, either at the Convent or at the
R.G.O., as well as medically examined
before being accepted as foster mothers.
But the great remedial measure is, as the
Committee begin their recommendations by
saying, in the better education of the Chinese,
to convince them of the necessity of proper
sanitary procedure, both personal and in
their households.

The English mail of the 19th December was
delivered in London on the 16th inst.

Colonel Charles Denby, late U.S. Minister to
China, died in Indiana last week.

We are requested to state that Mrs. May will
be at home to-morrow only till 4.45 on account
of the Church Missionary Association Meeting
at 5 o'clock.

It is confirmed that one officer, three petty
officers and twenty marines were landed at
Chemulpo from the *Cresy* on the 8th inst.,
and proceeded to Seoul by the second train.

The only cases of communicable disease
notified as occurring in the Colony last week
were—2 of enteric, one European and one
Chinese, both imported; and 2 of small-pox, both
European, one imported.

The summer schedule of the Russian rail-
way shows a *train de luxe* on the Siberian
railway, which will make the distance from
Alexandrov to Dalny in thirteen days.

The *N.C. Daily News* says that it can con-
tradict on good authority the *China Mail*
correspondent's story that operations on the
Canton-Hankow railway have been suspended
under orders from New York.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *N.C. Daily
News* says that the Emperor of Korea, in view
of the present stringency, has determined to
resign his administration. This would no
doubt be instructive, were it more intelligible.

At the beginning of last week the *Rossia*,
Rurik, *Granobol* and *Rogatyr* were at Vladivostok;
the *Siroutch* at Newchwang; the *Mandjour*
and *Dijidit* at Shanghai; the *Bayarin* at
Chemulpo; and the rest of the Russian squadron
in the East at Port Arthur.

According to the *Japan Times*, the American
Asiatic Association has sent a telegram to the
following effect to the Yokohama Association:
Japan is fighting a battle for civilization. The
Americans completely sympathize with Japan.
Japan has nothing to fear.

The Governor of Changsha (Hunan) lately
ordered from Japan 2,000 Murata rifles, pattern
1897, which with accompanying ammunition
will cost £1,200,000. These Japanese rifles
are said to be very much admired by the Chinese,
and there seems to be every prospect of China
buying her rifles in future solely from Japan to
the exclusion of other countries.

The Korean Emperor is said to appear more
concerned about his own personal safety than
the future of his country; at one time he in-
tended to fly to Shinsen or Pyongyang in case
of war, but he seems to have subsequently
decided to remain at Seoul. The Korean
officials are panic-stricken.

The *N.C. Daily News* learns from Canton
that Messrs. Mandl & Co. have effected with
the Viceroy of Kwangtung and Kwangsi a
loan of one million taels, repayable in fifteen
months, with interest at the rate of seven per
cent. per annum. No Imperial Edict is to be
required, but the repayment is guaranteed by
the Viceroy, the Governor, and the Provincial
Treasurer. Of the total sum about £1,400,000
is to be provided in the shape of
Krupp's military manufactures, the balance be-
ing in cash.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* has a telegram
dated Yokohama, 19th December:—"The
Privy Council met yesterday, the Mikado
presiding. It has been resolved to return
the last Russian Note to the S. Peters-
burg Government with the request to recon-
sider it. Official circles in Tokyo do not con-
sider this a break of the relations with Russia,
but on the contrary, as prompted by the desire
to continue the negotiations on another basis.
The final settlement of the crisis is therefore
postponed for some weeks.

A correspondent writes, with reference to a
benefit concert, advertised by the R.E. Variety
Club to take place in the Wellington Barracks
theatre on the evening of last Monday, that
owing to the "filthy and most disgraceful songs
which were sung" by a certain vocalist belong-
ing to the R.A.M.C. several European ladies
present had to leave the hall. "It is to be
regretted," he adds, "that the authorities
concerned do not step in and put a stop to such
carrying on. It would be advisable for the
R.E. Variety Club to keep this man from
appearing in future."

ARRIVAL OF R.G.A. DETACHMENT
IN HONGKONG.

Major Gordon, Captain Wakefield, four sub-
lieutenants, and 111 rank-and-file of the 83rd
Company of Royal Garrison Artillery yesterday
arrived from Canada by the Canadian Pacific
Railway s.s. *Empress of India*, and proceeded
to Lyonnun. As they have come from the
rather frigid support of Esquimaux, in the
province of British Columbia, Vancouver
Island, one can imagine that they will take
kindly to the change. Esquimaux, by the way,
though seldom spoken of outside service circles,
has an extensive harbour, and a naval yard.
It is about to be fortified at the joint expense
of the Imperial and Canadian Governments.
To return to the subject, however, Captain
Wakefield is not new to Hongkong, having
not so very long ago acted here as a
Lieutenant in the Hongkong and Singapore
Battalion of Royal Artillery.

RELIEVED TROOPS TO LEAVE
HONGKONG.

The 89th Company of Royal Garrison Artillery
having been relieved by the 83rd Company,
which arrived from Canada yesterday, will leave
for Rangoon by a hired transport, the British
India s.s. *Dilwara*, on Thursday afternoon at
two o'clock. The *Dilwara* will, also, take
home a number of details from the Sher-
wood Foresters, Royal Engineers, Army
Ordnance Corps, and Royal Army Medi-
cal Corps. In all, there will be 800 men
on board, besides quite a few wives and
families of soldiers, and the following
indulgent passengers:—Mrs. and Miss
Lambkin (wife and daughter of Lieut.
Lambkin), Mrs. H. West (wife of Capt.
Hewitt of the Pay Department), Mrs. Harvey
(wife of Lieut. Harvey of the Royal Army
Medical Corps), and child, Mrs. Murray (wife
of Captain Murray of the Sherwood Foresters),
Mrs. Bowley (wife of Major Bowley of the R.A.M.C.),
Mrs. Davies (wife of Lieut. Davies of the
110th Bombing Light Infantry), Mrs. Pinchock
(wife of Quartermaster Sergeant Pinchock of
the Royal Engineers), Mrs. Siddons (wife of Staff
Sergeant-Major Siddons), and Mrs. Brown (wife
of Garrison Sergeant-Major Brown). In each
instance the ladies will be accompanied by their
husbands.

TELEGRAMS. CORRESPONDENCE.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

SOMALILAND.

LONDON, 17th January.
A despatch from General Egerton states
that 250 prisoners were taken in the recent
battle; 680 dead bodies were counted near the
position, and numerous others along the line of
pursuit twelve miles on the open prairie. The
total of the evening's killed is estimated at over
1,200. It is reported that the Mullah was near
Hadin during the fight with a large force,
mounted, and supported. The first Brigade is
now reconnoitring Hadin.

RUSSIA'S MEDITERRANEAN
SQUADRON.

LONDON, 17th January.
The battleship *Orel* is proceeding to Suez.
The rest of the squadron is at Port Said await-
ing orders.

MORE RISINGS IN GERMAN
S.W. AFRICA.

LONDON, 17th January.
The rising of natives in German Namaqua-
land has extended to Damaraaland, and numbers
of settlers have been massacred.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

LONDON, 17th January.
Japanese and Russian agents are buying up
all available coal throughout the world. The
buying operations have hitherto been chiefly
centred in Cardiff. Japan has ordered 300,000
tons in England alone since Thursday, and has
also purchased 500,000 bushels of wheat in
Winnipeg.

THE U. S. IN THE FAR EAST.

LONDON, 17th January.
President Roosevelt has appointed Mr. David-
son, now Consul at Tamsui, to act as a roving
Commercial Agent with headquarters at
Antung, and Mr. E. V. Morgan, Consul at
Dalay.

INDISPOSITION OF THE TSARITZA.

LONDON, 17th January.
The Tsaritzin is suffering from pleurisy and
the Court Ball has been postponed.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]
Canton, 18th January.
ROBBERIES ENAGED.

Since the execution of Ao Chan, captain of the
3,000 robbers at Shui-bai, that district has been
quiet. Three noted robbers have been captured
in the Pun-yi territory just east of the city,
and they are at present exposed in cages
differing somewhat from the ordinary punish-
ment-cages, in the Pun-yi magistrate's yamen—
a sight for tourists, who do not, however, visit
this prison so often as the more famous
Nanhai prison.

DARING ATTEMPT AT PIRACY.

I have just had a talk with a friend who has
come through what might have been a very
unpleasant adventure in the S.W. of this
province. He had been staying on the coast
halfway to Kwongchow, and was returning
to Canton on Friday. The usual mode of
travelling throughout the delta and on all the
waterways in the province is by passenger-boat—
a large junk—towed by a steam-launch, of which
craft there is a great number lying
to the N.W. of Honan Island. These steam-
launches usually carry a guard of from
15 to 20 men, armed to the teeth, and
the passenger-boats too have a guard, and
sometimes an ancient cannon or two. In the
case I refer to, the boat had passed a few miles
beyond Kongmoon, and was in a narrow part
of the river, when, in the late watches of the night,
it was attacked by a number of sampans, which
glided out of the numerous small creeks
flowing into the larger stream at this spot.
The crews of the launch and passenger-
boat felt strong enough to refuse to surrender
and were attacked with a fusillade from
modern weapons. For several hours the
fight was kept up, and at last, finding
they could make no impression on their
would-be victims, the pirates withdrew. It is
very rarely, I believe, that passenger-boats are
strong enough to keep off pirates, so my in-
formant had a fortunate escape. This bold
attack so near to the port of Kongmoon shows
well that the pirates are really more powerful
than most foreigners imagine. The day will
come when their destruction will become
absolutely necessary to freedom of trade.

NEW YEAR PREPARATIONS.

With the approach of China New Year there
is a great activity in the fire-cracker quarter.
Millions of crackers are used annually at this
season, of which many are imported. It is a
period of great danger from fires, as may be
imagined.

The toy-shops are very busily at work also.
At New Year every respectable house has its
little ornaments renewed, and the children have
their little presents. Generally there is a
good deal going on in the city at present,
but money is very scarce in the Imperial
coffers, and it is rumoured that another loan
will have to be negotiated by the Viceroy.

FOOTBALL.

The V.R.C.F.C. will play H.M.S. *Tamar*
(Shield Match, 1st round) at 4 p.m. to-morrow
on the Hongkong F.C. ground. The following
will play for the V.R.C.—W. A. Crane, goal; J.
Witchell and R. Lapsley, backs; E. R. Horton,
J. Forbes, and H. Gilley, half-backs; H. W.
Sayer, H. S. Holmes, W. Dixon, A. Marti, and
J. Clelland, forwards.

THE FISCAL PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 16th January.

Sir,—I have read with great interest the
replies which my hastily-penned contribu-
tion on the Fiscal Question has evoked, but I cannot
say that I am yet persuaded that Mr.
Chamberlain's proposals, if adopted, would be
advantageous economically or politically to the
British Empire. The vote of the British com-
munity having been taken on the question, this
reply must, I suppose, be taken as ending the
discussion. Otherwise I should be interested
to hear from "Chamberlainite" why my pen
should be regarded by him as "Radical." Is he
unaware of the fact that all the men of the best
experience in the late Conservative Cabinet are
indiscreet opponents of the late Colonial
Secretary's enterprise? Every statesman now
alive who has occupied the position of
Chancellor of the Exchequer in England—and
two of them have presided over the Board of Trade
—the positions in which the best experience is
gained for forming opinions on fiscal changes—
emphatically denounce Mr. Chamberlain's
proposals as inimical to the best interests of the
Empire. And who is Mr. Chamberlain that
he should be regarded as an infallible guide
in these matters? Mr. Chamberlain has
represented in his time every shade of political
opinion, and may describe a complete circle
before his career is ended. No man in the
Empire has declaimed more vehemently than
himself against the policy he is now seeking to
dictate to the nation.

If I conveyed to "Chamberlainite" that I
took our Colony as "a basis of argument on
which to build a superstructure of an over-
whelming fabric of false issues," I very much
regret it. While I am not convinced that
the condition of our Colony would benefit by
Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, I would wish to
deprecate any attempt to consider the general
question entirely from the parochial point of
view. Parenthetically, I would, however,
by way of replying to "Chamberlainite,"
remind him that Hongkong has not been
made what it is entirely by the expenditure of
British pounds; if it were possible to make a
computation, it would be found that a great
many of the wicked aliens have contributed
handsomely to the development of Hongkong
as a commercial centre. A study of the
directorates of local companies affords some
indication of that fact.

But let us return to the main question. Mr.
Winterburn, when dealing with the question
from the Imperial rather than parochial point
of view, says:—

"We are treated to a lot of figures to show
that the volume of British trade is really
on the increase, though nothing near the
extent of that of protected countries. Con-
sidering that British population is also on the
increase, and according to 'X's' figures our
exports are mostly to British Colonies and
dependencies, it simply means that we exploit
new countries and naturally get a fair share of
business from our sons who spend their
energies and blood, and the home taxpayer,
who finances the exploitation, gets his little
bit along with the various other gentlemen
from Poland and Hamburg, Trieste, and all
the world over."

I gave no figures to show that our exports are
mostly to British Colonies and dependencies.
The Colonies in fact take less than half of our
exports. I cannot, however, see the point of Mr.
Winterburn's remarks. Even if I had said that
our exports were mostly to British Colonies
and dependencies it would not "simply mean that
we exploit new countries and naturally get a
fair share of business." Mr. Winterburn is
evidently unaware that our export trade to
countries like Germany, Russia and the United
States is not yet extinguished but flourishing.
Germany in 1902 bought from us exports
amounting in value to £33,000,000 sterling—
nearly four millions more than she did ten
years ago; Russia bought from us five millions
more than she did in 1892; the United States
three millions more; Belgium about the same;
France a million more. The United States is
our largest customer (43 millions sterling);
Germany and India are practically bracketed
second (33 millions sterling); France third (22
millions); Australia fourth (21 millions). We
cannot afford to injure our trade with foreign
countries.

"Considering that the British population is
on the increase." Yes; and what do we find?
Why this: that in 1854, when the population
was estimated at 27,700,000, the general trade
(merchandise) of the country was £9 14s. 6d.
per head; in 1902, when we had an esti-
mated population of 41,916,212, we had a
trade which worked out at £20 18s. 4d. per head!
Is that fact not sufficient to make any man pause
before he attempts to upset a fiscal policy which
has encouraged such results?

Great stress is laid in any local discussion
of the question on the results to
British shipping of foreign competition.
Unfortunately, I cannot put my hand on any
statistics which give an idea of the growth of
our total tonnage, but it is enormous. Our
shipbuilding yards, moreover, launched more
merchant and other vessels (not warships) in the
three years 1900-2 than in any previous years.
And as for the profits of shipowners, though
they may not have been princely, they have
certainly been better than those of their chief
rivals—the German companies. The dividend
of the Hamburg-American line was 10 per cent.
in 1900, 6 per cent. in 1901, and in 1902 it was
4½ per cent. The North-German Lloyd dividend
in 1900 was 8½ per cent., in 1901 6 per cent.,
and in 1902 it was nil. In 1900 the Hanes Line
paid a dividend of 14 per cent., in 1901 it was 8
per cent., and in 1902 it was 6 per cent. Then,

last, let us take the Hamburg-South America
Steam Shipping Company. In 1900 the divid-
end was 10 per cent., in 1901 4 per cent., and
in 1902 it was again nil.

I am not competent to judge as between the
condition of the workman in Essen and his
colleague in Leeds or Newcastle, as Mr. Winter-
burn recommends, nor is there any necessity
for an enquiry so circumscribed; the important
thing to know is the condition of the people in
Germany and England as a whole. It certainly
cannot be said that the German official reports
on industrial conditions in Germany lend any
support to Mr. Winterburn's view.

Mr. Winterburn says there is no reason why
the 230 millions of foodstuffs now imported
into the United Kingdom from foreign
countries should not be produced within the
limits of the British Empire. Very likely; but
I judge from the available statistics that
if only our colonies will produce more the
United Kingdom is ready to receive it.
Canada is "the granary of the Empire," and I
see we took three million more cwt. of wheat in
grain from her in 1902 than we received in
1901. The import from India and Australia has
also been increasing in recent years, while
that from Russia and the Argentine has been
diminishing. From the United States the
increase was not greater than that from Canada.
Canada's export of foodstuffs to the United
Kingdom will, I doubt not, continue to grow
as the extensive areas of forest land are brought
under cultivation. Every facility, and I may
even say temptation, is offered to Britishers
to go there and settle; but the growth of
agriculture in the colonies must be slow, and it
is very doubtful whether it would be appreciably
hastened by a duty against foreign corn.

If it is desired to help the Colonies to give us
what we need, it seems to me that it could be more
satisfactorily and far more cheaply done by
paying subsidies upon Colonial produce delivered.
The policy of Mr. Chamberlain would commit
us to the taxation of the whole of our 462
millions of imports; and when we bear in mind
that 400 millions of that sum are spent on food-
stuffs and raw materials, we can hardly blind
ourselves to the inevitable consequences that
the cost of production of all the commodities
which the United Kingdom has for consumption
as well as for export would be enhanced and her
trade in markets where she has long held her
own would be seriously endangered. Mr. W. H.
Mallock has compared the wealth of the United
Kingdom to an Eiffel tower, which rises on four
enormous legs; but though the tower is in one
sense a purely British erection, one of its four
legs only rests upon British soil. "One of them
straddles across the Atlantic, and finds its foot-
ing in America; another in Europe and Asia;
and another is buoyed up by a multitude of ships
at sea."

That consideration I will leave with my oppo-
nents, together with this final submission:—Our
danger is twofold. By erecting tariff walls we
may reduce our imports from foreign countries
long before our Colonies are able to meet our
requirements. If we suffer no reduction in our
imports, then obviously they can only be sold at
an increased cost to the consumer. That means
that the cost of labour and all the products of
labour must naturally increase correspondingly,
and I submit that the result must be a diminished
export trade, a declining carrying trade, and
increasing distress at home.

Therefore, I say that if home-keeping youths
have "homely wits" they will be well advised
to preserve them.—Yours truly,

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

S. Paul's College, 10th January.
Sir,—It has already been notified by circular
and otherwise, that the annual meeting of the
Hongkong Church Missionary Association
is to be held on Thursday next, Jan. 21st, at
S. Paul's College at 5 p.m. Owing, however, to
the fact that Bishop Ridley of Caledonia
(British Columbia) is now staying in the
Colony, and is kindly going to speak at the
meeting, it is feared that, as many have
expressed the desire to hear him, the room in
S. Paul's College will not be large enough. It
has therefore been decided to hold the meeting
in the City Hall, at the same time as was
originally proposed, and H.E. the Officer
Administering the Government has kindly
consented to take the chair.

As there is not time to notify this change in
any other way, may I ask you kindly to insert
this letter for the information of those who may
wish to attend? All who desire to be present,
whether members of the Association or not,
will be most heartily welcomed.—I am etc.

J. C. VICTORIA.

DOGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 9th January, 1904.
Sir,—Now that dog-licences are being issued
it may be pertinent to make a few remarks;
and the most natural one is, what does one pay
a licence for? It is within common knowledge
that many dog-owners do not pay the tax until
late in the year, and others "forget" to take
out a licence at all. To be sure the latter class
have very often a good excuse, viz., that their
dogs are not worth the cost of a licence, but
such excuse affords a good reason for their
pets' destruction. Apparently there is no
attempt made to impound or destroy these
unlicensed dogs, as is done in most other
communities, and one may be pardoned for en-
quiring how the tax is utilised. Surely the
Government can afford to employ "dog
catchers" and so rid us of these pestilent
"wanks" and mongrels generally.

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Hongkong, 11th January, 1904. [3335]

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EXTRA COPIES of Daily Press are on sale daily at Mr. H. RUTTONJEE'S KOWLOON STORE, No. 36, Elgin Road. Price 15 cents per copy cash. Hongkong, 22nd December, 1902. [3518]

AUTOMATIC MAUSER PISTOLS.

CALIBRE 7.63 mm. WITH CHAMBER FOR 10 CARTRIDGES FIRING 10 SHOTS IN 2 SECONDS. SIEMSEN & CO. Hongkong, 3rd October, 1900. [54]

DAVID CORSAI & SON'S MERCHANT NAVY NAVY BOILED JUNG FLAX RELIANCE CROWN TARPULING ARNOLD, KARBURG & CO. Sole Agents. [3486]

HONGKONG BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, Victoria Buildings, THIS DAY (WEDNESDAY), the 20th JANUARY, 1904, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1903.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, the 16th JANUARY, to WEDNESDAY, the 20th JANUARY (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary to the
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited.
General Agents for the
KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.
Hongkong, 20th January, 1904. [145]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SIXTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, Victoria Buildings, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th JANUARY, 1904, at 11.30 o'clock A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1903.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED on SATURDAY, the 16th JANUARY, to WEDNESDAY, the 27th JANUARY (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary to the
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.
General Agents for the
THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.
Hongkong, 9th January, 1904. [192]

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SIXTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, Victoria Buildings, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th JANUARY, 1904, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1903.

The REGISTER of SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED on SATURDAY, the 16th JANUARY, to WEDNESDAY, the 27th JANUARY (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 9th January, 1904. [193]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TWENTIETH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held in the COMPANY'S OFFICES, No. 14, Des Vaux Road, Victoria, on 6th FEBRUARY, 1904, at 11 A.M. for the purpose of receiving Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1903, declaring a Dividend and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 3rd to the 6th FEBRUARY, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 13th January, 1904. [272]

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the Company will be held at the OFFICE of the Company, No. 18, Bank Buildings, Queen's Road Central, on SATURDAY, the 4th FEBRUARY, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the Directors, together with a Statement of Accounts, declaring a Dividend, confirming the appointment of a Director and electing Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 23rd JANUARY, to the 6th FEBRUARY, inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
T. ARNOLD,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th January, 1904. [258]

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Hongkong, 4th October, 1903. [283]

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Manager.
Amoy, 3rd December, 1903. [87]

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Hongkong, 28th November, 1902. [11]

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THE WOMAN ON THE DERELICT.

BEING THE STRANGE LOVE STORY OF JOHN BRAMWELL, BY GUY BOOTHBY

(Author of "Dr. Nikola," "My Indian Queen," &c., &c.)

Synopsis.—John Bramwell, after knocking about the world for many years, arrives in Sydney from San Francisco, and being discharged from his ship looks about for further work. He calls at the office of a shipping firm, is appointed mate of the schooner "Britomart," and the following day sails for Apia. Two years pass away: One day, while Bramwell is sitting on the verandah of an hotel, a man approaches and enters into conversation with him. It appears he is owner of the schooner "Kittiwake," to which some mystery attaches, lying off Apia. He invites Bramwell to go with him and look over his vessel. Learning that he is thinking of leaving the "Britomart," Gies Farrington, as the "Kittiwake's" owner is called, persuades him to take command of his ship. Farrington turns out to be an opium smuggler and pearl poacher. After the two have experienced several adventurous years, Bramwell decides to visit England. Leaving the ship at Honolulu, he starts for London on board the "Hulket."

CHAPTER III.

At the commencement of my first chapter I described to you the miserable effect of a calm in the Pacific, and how depressed our ship's company was made by it. More than once I bitterly regretted that I had not trusted myself to stem; but it was no use crying over spilt milk. I had only myself to thank for my folly, as, whether I liked it or not, there was nothing for it but to put up with the stifling heat under the awning, and the still greater inferno of my cabin below. All the energy seemed to have gone out of me, and I had not sufficient life left in me even to light a pipe. Stranger still, I had lost both feet, that the tatter and the Captain forbore, for the time being, at least, to quarrel. The wind was lying down in the galley, with what she described as a sick headache. The delicate youth, whose name, by the way, was Thompson, was fast asleep in the shadow of the companion, with old Mr. Macpherson in the same condition in a long chair beside him. Miss Pleyden was endeavouring to write up her diary, and was not succeeding in the attempt. Even the man at the wheel looked half asleep. Indeed the only sounds to be heard were the music of the somnolent gentlemen, and the clattering of pots and pans in the galley forward. What the heat must be like in there I dared not think. The infernal regions would have been nothing to it.

After a while I went forward to the fore's head to see if there was any air to be obtained there, but I might have saved myself the trouble, for the atmosphere was as stagnant in the bows as it was aft. Not an inch of canvas was drawing; we might as well have been at anchor for all the progress we were making. I was proceeding aft once more, when a man who had been lying in the shadow of the long boat on the main deck sat up and accosted me.

"Here doesn't seem any chance of a breeze, sir," he said. "It is enough to drive a man off his head—this broiling sun. You don't know what it's like, sir, down below. How the women and children stand it fairly boils me. I can't manage it myself even."

He was one of the steerage passengers we carried, and seemed to be a decent sort of fellow. Like myself, he had been at sea; later on, he had tried his luck on the Australian gold-fields, and, having had the good fortune to "strike it," fairly rich, was now going home to settle down in his native place. I had always liked the man, and we had had many talks together during the voyage. Though he was wont to profess his hatred of the sea, and to row that once he got ashore he would never go afloat again, I did not altogether believe him. When I talked to him about it, his eyes were wont to light up at the sound of the familiar terms, and he would forget himself in his excitement, would slap his leg and vow that under certain conditions, it wasn't such a bad life after all. My reasons for telling you all this will be apparent to you presently.

We discussed the weather, and then I continued my walk aft to find the two sleepers awake and the widow walking languidly up and down the deck with the Capt's, while her other swain watched them from his chair with angry eyes. Strolling to the taffrail I looked over. As I did so, a big black fin nudged my forehead. It belonged to a shark, and it was evident that he was following us in the hope of a meal. I don't know what has caused me to feel so, but I have always had the same sort of aversion for a shark that other people entertain for a snake or a rat. I could not help shuddering as I watched him sucking along just below the surface, ready to grab at anything, human or otherwise, that might be thrown to him. The memory of a native I had once seen mauled by one of the brutes rose before my mind's eye. It was in the Fiji, and Farrington had been present at the time. He would have leapt to the poor wretch's assistance, but I can't recall that it was I who prevented him by main force. I recall also the way in which he abused me for not permitting him to carry out his wish. Then I began to wonder what Farrington was doing, whether he ever thought of me.

While I was indulging in this reverie the sun was sinking like a ball of fire below the horizon, throwing a streak of blood red light across the glassy sea. An indefinable feeling of loneliness had taken possession of me, a vague belief that something was about to happen, what I knew not. Try how I would I could not shake it off. Indeed so much was I out of harmony with my surroundings, that I could have found it in my heart to curse the frivolous widow and the foppish little Captain for the trouble they were chattering. In the hope of cheering myself up a little I went below and ordered the steward to bring me a bottle of beer, but it was hot and well nigh undrinkable, so I left it and returned to the deck once more. In the Tropics there is no dusk, and though I had only been about a short time, the shadows of night had commenced to fall. Better still, there was just the faint suspicion of a breeze, if only it would continue.

"This is better, sir," said the second officer, whose watch it was, "I fancy from the look of the sky that there's more behind it."

"Let us hope so," I replied, "for I have had enough of calms to last me a lifetime." Then seeing that the Captain was watching us, and knowing that he objected to the passengers conversing with his officers when on duty, I made an excuse and strolled away.

The glorious tropic stars were showing up one by one by this time, and my imagination led me to believe that the breeze really was increasing. After the languor of the day, the ripple of the water alongside was more than soothing, while to see the canvas steadily drawing, good, if not better, than a draught of the rarest wine. At dinner that night

everyone seemed to be in good spirits. Old Macpherson told some of his wry Australian stories of the early days, while even lookalike little Miss Pleyden ventured on a timid riddle, of which it eventually appeared she had forgotten the answer. Seeing her confusion, and that the Captain was about to chaff her, I came to her assistance by asking what the latter thought of the chances of the wind holding. He glanced spitefully at me, as if he were anxious to know what the deuce the matter had got to do with me. But I could see from the way that he looked at the telltale compass above his head that he was more concerned about it even than we were.

Dinner over, I returned to the deck, and went aft to take a squint over the rail. In my opinion she was doing a good nine and a half, but the officer of the watch thought scarcely so much. The wake was a mass of phosphorescent light that trailed away like star-spangled cotton-wool hundreds of yards behind us. Never do I remember to have seen it more beautiful than it was that night. The better to enjoy it, and also to escape from my fellow passengers, for whose company I did not feel in the least inclined, I once more went forward into the bows and posted myself near the look-out, to think my own thoughts with only the churning of the water under the vessel's fore foot to keep me company. It was nearly ten o'clock before I roused myself from my reverie, knocked the ashes out of my pipe upon the rail, and made my way back to my own proper portion of the ship. After one last look round, I directed into the brilliantly lighted cabin, where the Captain and Macpherson were sitting over their grog. Feeling that they might deem me unseemable if I did not, I poured myself out a glass and joined them.

"I am glad you have come to protect me, Mr. Bramwell," began the Captain, who evidently desired to make up for his curt treatment of me earlier in the evening. "Mr. Macpherson has been nearly frightening me to death with ghost stories and tales of second sight. I shall be afraid to go on deck all night if he continues much longer."

Like most Scotchmen, the Squatter was exceedingly superstitious.

"You don't surely believe then in such things?" I asked, more for the sake of something to say than for any interest I took in the discussion.

"Believe? I should think not," replied the little man stoutly. "You'll be wanting me to believe in dreams next."

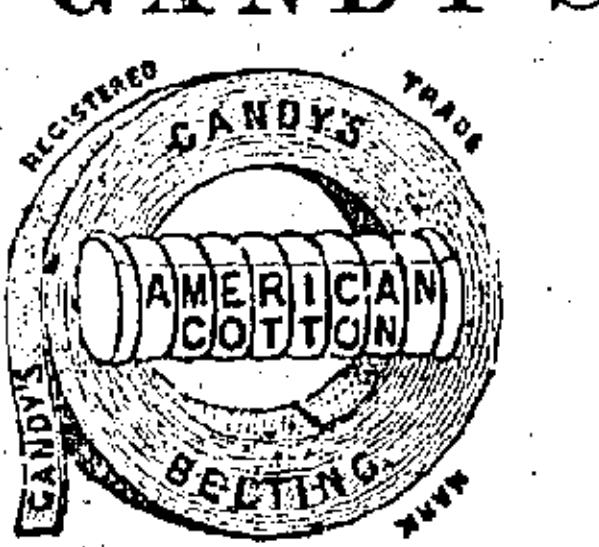
"Well, well, and you might do worse than that," retorted the older man, shaking his head. "I can call to mind how an old shepherd I had early in the seventies—Sandy Macpherson was his name; he had a hut out in the Back Country and, taken altogether, he was a vera curly one man, I've no fear. One morning I rode out to inspect the sheep. He was mortal glad to see me, for he was fair fashed about a dream he'd had that night."

(To be continued.)

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Hongkong, 25th July 1903. [211]

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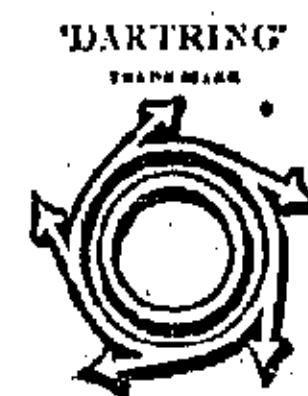
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Hongkong, 4th March, 1903. [240]

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N. INUZUKA, Manager, Hongkong

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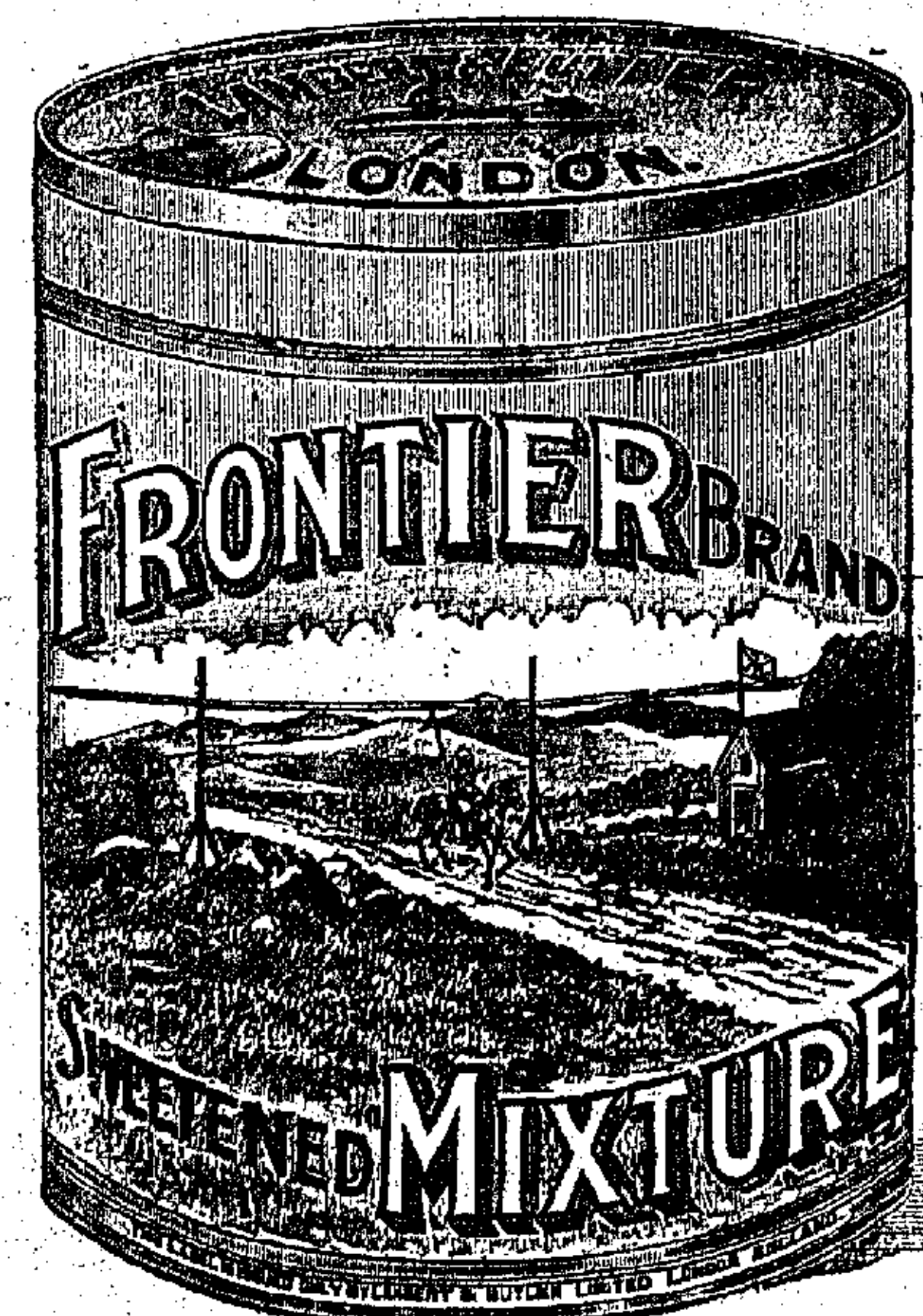
Hongkong, 18th August, 1903

[319-2]

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